

ST. ALBERT GAZETTE

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599-7144

FOUNDED JUNE 17, 1961 - ST. ALBERT'S 100 ANNIVERSARY

July 24, 1965 Vol. 5-28



OUR BEARD CHAMPION!

Mayor Richard Fowler congratulates Armand Savoie with his success in the Klondike Beard Contest.

Beard Growing Contest

It came in three's for Mr. Armand Savoie of 1 Madison Avenue, St. Albert. What began as a tongue-in-cheek experiment became a very exciting and highly competitive race for first place in the Klondike beard growing contest, which came to a climax during Exhibition week. Mr. Savoie received permission from his charming wife and the approval of his employers at Edmonton Auto Parts. Mr. Savoie just didn't bother shaving the entire week of May 1st. The realization that this particular chore would have to be avoided must have required a cer-

tain amount of concentration for the first few days, until the slight "five o'clock shadow" deepened to a stubby growth which brought a twinkle of pride in his eyes every visit to the mirror. Sidelong glances, and remarks of "some people are just too lazy to shave" were the only criticism offered by the general public for the first week, changed to concerned pointed questions about skin diseases after the second week. From then on it was clear sailing with a lot of kidding jovially received as well as donated, laced with much encouragement and praise. Mr. Savoie as-

suers us, that despite the fact that he never once was tempted to break down and shave, it took a certain amount of courage to go through with it. The employees of Edmonton Auto Parts began their competition as a group, vying for first prize among their own ranks. As time progressed, it began to be evident that his cherished growth fell into the category of the "full Klondike" beard, which in his opinion is the most difficult to grow. No trimming is permitted, therefore no comfort to the wearer, as it is simply
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Beard Growing Contest continued from page 1

let to grow naturally.

The first taste of victory came as he received first prize from Edmonton Auto Parts - a Klondike donkey, and a bag of gold, consisting of \$5.00 worth of brand new pennies of the year 1965. Then and only then did he believe that he could possibly compete with other groups.

At the competition taking place at the Royal Bank, Mr. Savoie again took first prize in his class, receiving a plaque and fifty dollars, sponsored by MacDoeham for Labatt's.

He then entered the last event, the judging of the ten best in the overall categories. The judges being at a deadlock, had to resort to a vote by applause from the enthusiastic crowd! Even this came up as a tie, which gave the nod to his opponent only after a second vote, Mr. Savoie was given second prize, a gift of fifty dollars. Though only slightly disappointed after being so close to victory, Mr. Savoie

enjoyed other benefits, namely being soundly kissed by Klondike Kate. All in all, Mr. Savoie believes he fared rather well, and enjoyed the proceedings to the very fullest extent. When asked, he declared that he felt no discomfort from his now famous beard, which he tended with great care. A daily shampoo, careful rinsing, became a must as the beard grew longer. He received a considerable amount of praise, and plenty of encouragement from many parts, and he particularly mentioned those he appreciated most - from St. Albert. He even enjoyed being whistled at a few times.

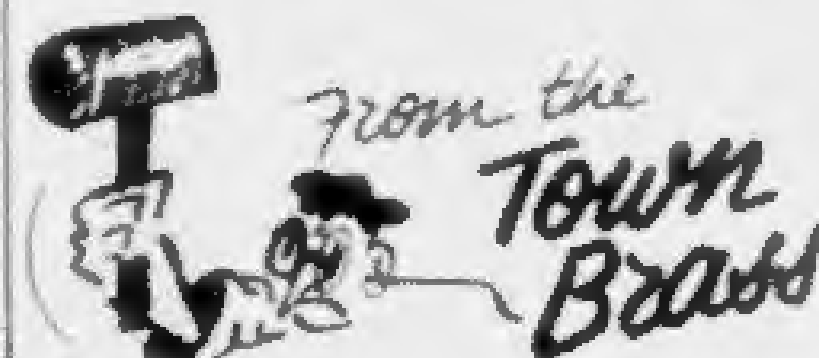
Mr. Savoie can be justly proud of his newly acquired beard. His appearance is most distinguished and dashing as he confronts us dressed in the accepted Klondike costume, which features a soft light grey hat, flashy red vest, blue arm bands, "Klondike Days" tie of gold on black, complete with walking stick. He also expects to enter again next year with no objections from his family predicts a bright future for Klondike Days, and encourages St. Albert to join in these yearly festivities which are becoming quite famous.

St. Albert Gazette

Editor, W.J. Katalenbos

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NEW SET UP FOR COMMITTEES



Council Meeting, Monday, July 19, 1965

The following motion was moved by Mayor Dick Fowler:

whereas:

1. It has been deemed advisable to study the Committee Structure of our Municipal Government in view of more efficiency and for expediency sake.

2. After studying, together with Deputy Mayor J. de Bruijn, a proposal submitted by Councillor J.J. Bakker.

I propose that the following resolution: Part 1: The Council be divided into two Standing Committees - Finance and Public Works. Each committee to be made up of three Councillors and selected by the Mayor in consultation with Deputy Mayor and individual Councillors. Each committee will select its own Chairman with a recommendation for the Mayor.

Part 2: The Committee responsibilities will be as follows:

FINANCE - money matters, accounts, budget control, personnel matters, welfare, by-law, police and Curling Club.

PUBLIC WORKS - Engineers, Public works, Parks Dept., Technical Advisors, Planning development, Centennial project, and civil defence.

Part 3: The Standing Committees will make appointments from their own bodies to committees as follows:

FINANCE - Recreation Board, Sr. Citizens Home, Hospital Board.

PUBLIC WORKS - Centennial Committee, Civil Defence, Hospital Board.

Part 4: The Mayor be appointed the Town Representative to the Edmonton Regional

Continued on page 3

RECREATION DAY 1965

This Saturday, July 24, will be the annual Recreation Day of St. Albert. Recreation Director, Max Gibb, and his staff, have set up a very attractive program (see "From the Recreation Director") which will be enjoyable for young and old. A Soap Box Derby, Marble Tournament, Bike and Trike Races, Hootenany, Costume contest, and the Miss St. Albert Contest of 1965 will be the highlight of this program. Miss Mark-Luk 1964, Miss Judy Lee Holmes, will present the prize to Miss St. Albert. Let all of us, and especially the parents of our children, attend all of these festivities, with the finale at the Lions Park where hot dogs and drinks will be given out to all. Let all of us, after so many years, be happy that our Town has now at least organized recreational activities under the supervision of experts who are there to give your children so many pleasant holidays. We would like to thank Max Gibb and his staff for the way they have set up recreation in our Town generally but also for the enthusiasm they have shown to do this so important work in our community. Mayor Dick Fowler will open this big day at 11:00 A.M. Be there and encourage our children and the Recreational Staff with your keen interest. Don't forget, the Parade starts at 10 A.M. and can be watched at the corner of Pison and Churchill Avenue. See you there!

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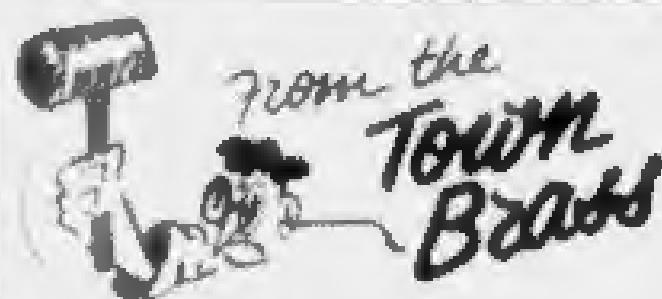
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continued from page 2

Planning Commission, alternate Councillor John Bakker.

Part 5: The two Standing Committees to meet simultaneously each month at a chosen time in the Town Hall.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Councillors John de Bruijn, Dick Wheatley, and Bob Parkes are members of the Finance Committee and

The Councillors Dave Stewart, John Bakker, and Armand Donais are members of the Public Works Committee.

The regular meetings of these Committees will be held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall. A special meeting of both Committees will be held this Wednesday, July 21st.

Radio Tower at Sylvan Drive, Sturgeon Heights - Mr. Glen Landsborough, owner of St. Albert Cabs, appeared before

Council in regard to his application for building a Radio Tower at his property on Sylvan Drive. This was the second time that Mr. Landsborough made this application, his first one was brought before Council last year but was then re-

jected because residents in this district

presented a petition to Council, so that at that time no development permit could be issued. Mr. Landsborough explained to Council that at least 127 Radio Towers were built in Edmonton. "My tower will be between 40 and 54 feet high. It will not be a commercial setup but just a hobby. My commercial property is located in the Downtown area."

Councillor de Bruijn stated that the Town had already given permission to another resident to build such a tower in St. Albert and this is not the only one. Councillor Dick Wheatley was of the opinion that if another resident had received a permit that it would be discrimination if Mr. Landsborough would not receive a building permit. Mr. Kelly appearing before Council, stated that he and another resident in the Sylvan Drive area were opposed to such a tower. He did not like the idea of having a commercial operation in his residential district and he was afraid that too many taxi cabs and trucks would be around. After some discussion, Councillor de Bruijn moved that a development permit will be issued to build this tower with the conditions that it not be higher than 54 feet and following the rules laid down by Mr. Marland of the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission. His motion was carried. Mayor Fowler pointed out to Mr. Kelly that he would have an opportunity for an appeal against Council's

decision.

Application to sell debentures

Council was informed that applications to sell debentures have been made to the Alberta Municipal Finance Corporation for a Garbage Compactor (Money By-Law 40/64) and for development of Parks (Money By-Law 44/64).

Garbage Compactor

Copies of a proposal for contract handling of garbage by a resident, Mr. Erickson, will be sent to all Councillors and will be studied in the Public Works Committee.

Parks Development

Recommendations to Council regarding this project will be done by the Superintendent of Parks, Mr. Andre Gates, and his opinion will also be obtained if the Town will ask for tenders or if this work will be done by the Town's Parks Department.

Greenhouse Site

Council decided in principle to lease the Old Sewage Lagoons (located N.E. of the town) to Mr. Hermann Von Busse who will build at this place a greenhouse. The duration of this lease will be 20 years. This proposal will come back to Council for final decision.

Town's Greenhouse

Councillor Bakker was asking for a full report of the Town's Greenhouse (located at Ball Avenue). Mr. Andre Gates, Parks

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From the Town Board continued from page 3

Superintendent, will prepare such a report.

The Main Street of St. Albert

Councillor Wheatley wanted to know what measures could be taken to clean Piron Street, the main street of St. Albert. He was of the opinion that such a main street should be as clean as the main street in Edmonton, Jasper Avenue. The town engineer, Mr. Maandae, will bring a proposal to Council regarding this matter.

Recreation Board

Councillor Bakker suggested that the Council should have more direct contact with the Recreation Board. He was of the opinion that this contact is not what it should be. Mayor Fowler assured Councillor Bakker that he had already made up his mind in this matter and that measures soon will be taken.

Memorial Monument

Mayor Fowler will contact the President of the St. Albert Legion in regards to the very dismantled condition of our Memorial Monument (A picture in last week's Gazette showed this disgusting situation).

during the next few months and we all need the confidence and support of the ratepayers.

Your editorial policy seems adept at printing unsigned letters - I trust you will extend the same privilege by publishing one that is signed.

Robert Russell

Note Editor:

It is normal that some Protestant Sep. School Supporters were quite confused when they were informed on July 8th at 8 P.M. that the School Board meeting was abandoned, because of no quorum. All trustees were informed in time regarding this meeting. Unfortunately Robert Russell didn't receive the invitation and Ron Harvey was still on holidays, which means that they cannot be blamed. Mr. Roy Usher, who was present, had postponed his holidays especially for this meeting. It is not our business to say what is right or wrong but the "concerned parent" certainly has! The original letter to the editor was not unsigned and is still in our file. The fact that "The concerned parent" decided not to put his full name under the published letter is his privilege, which is a very usual custom in all newspapers in Canada.

From Our Readers

Dear Sir:

I am grateful for the interest shown by the letter in last week's Gazette by the "Concerned Parent". However, the remarks regarding the School Board meetings deserve some clarification. It seems to me that the former Board was inconsiderate of newly elected members in calling a meeting the day following an election. When I was first notified at 9:30 the morning of the day of the meeting, I suggested that in fairness to Mr. Ron Harvey and myself, the meeting should be postponed for three or four days to allow us time to study the agenda and the minutes of previous meetings so that we could familiarize ourselves with the job at hand. If the writer had bothered to check with the Board Office, he or she would have discovered that this is what happened. I have attended a Special Board meeting Monday afternoon, July 12th; another on Wednesday morning, July 14th; and yet another six hour meeting on Thursday July 15th, which is not a bad record considering the fact I have been a School Trustee less than a week. The Separate School Board faces many financial and administrative problems

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THE
St. Albert
Gazette



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A red Gazette box has been placed in Safeway Store, Grandin Shopping Park.

for the convenience of our Grandin Park readers. For the Mission Park, Brueside and Downtown readers, a red Gazette Box has been placed in Perron's Store. A third red Gazette Box is at 45 Sunset Blvd. for the Sturgeon Heights readers. These boxes can be used for:

- (a) Letter to the Editor (signed only)
- (b) Club or organization news (signed)
- (c) Church and school news (signed)
- (d) Hunter Want Ads. prepaid with the correct charge in an envelope. Unpaid ads will not be printed.



Only pre-paid Hunter Want Ads will be accepted. The minimum charge will be 70¢ for 10 words. Each additional word will be 6¢. The phone number is counted as one word (e.g. phone 599-0000).

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FROM the RECREATION DIRECTOR

Swimming Lessons

We are very pleased with the great turn out of 87 young swimmers who achieved higher levels. Those who passed the Junior Red Cross Examination are: Lindsay Kenny, Lynne Jarvis, Tim Styles, Henny Stel, John Lick, Ellery Kenny, Tim Jarvis, Garry Peterson. The graduates from the beginners class are: Kirk Smecher, Peter Holgersen, Rosanna Richard, Nancy Stel, Greg Styles, Damian Bone, Paul Collins, Freddy Dettling, Simon LaFrance, Tetjana Brodgesell, Brent Wells, Ronald Mann, Denise Popoff, Kim Popoff, and Donald Pederson.

Recreation Day

The St. Albert playground will be officially opened Saturday, July 24, 1965. The program will begin at 10:00 A.M. when the costumed children will meet on the five playgrounds throughout the Town and prepare to march to the corner of Piron Street and Sir Winston Churchill Avenue, where the playground program will be officially opened by Mayor Fowler at 11:00. The following is the agenda for the day:

11:05 - Soap box derby down Piron Street from Churchill Avenue.

11:15 - Marble Tournament

11:15 - Bike and Trike Rodeo on Piron Street.

11:20 - On the grassed area Northwest of Piron Street and Churchill Avenue a hootenany will be led by Barry Cooper of the Cellar Dwellers. Festivities include songs; freckle and costume contests; skits and the presentation of awards. The well known and well liked Playground Players from Edmonton will be putting on a show.

The last and final contest will be the Miss St. Albert of 1965; all contestants are 8 and under. The prize will be presented by lovely Miss Judy Lee Holmes, Miss Muk-Luk 1964 and Alberta's representative to the Miss Canada Beauty Pageant.

With the hootenany still in progress, everyone will march to Lions Park where hot dogs and drinks will be given out to all. At 1:00 P.M. everyone will return to their home playground. This will be a great day for the whole family.

Activities on the Playground

Last week was Klondike Week. Our special event, a trip to Molson's Edmonton House, had a tremendous turnout. Children, bright in Klondike costumes, were

fascinated with the great array of historic pieces. The playgrounds made puppets in their arts and crafts session last week, and held a puppet show on Friday evening. All in all the Klondike week was a great success.

Schedule for July 19-23

The theme for this week is nature and science. Each day will be a specific session of nature and science such as Space Day, Insect Day, Garden Day, and Bird Day. Our special event of the week is a trip to the Planetarium. The Grandin Playground will leave at 1:00 P.M. and return at 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 20. The Lions and Mission Park will leave and return at the same time on the following day, Wednesday, July 21. The Sturgeon Playground and Tot-Lot will have their trip on Friday, July 23 at 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. A twenty-five cent fee is charged for entrance to the planetarium, a school bus is made available for this purpose by District No. 6.

Throughout the week the 5 playgrounds will hold Bug Hunts, Garden Growing contests, Drama, and Arts and Crafts Sessions. Bird trees will be made, murals painted and many more interesting items. All playgrounds will hold a Hike and Weiner Roast, Friday, July 23. Get in touch with your nearest playground for more details.

Schedule for July 26-30

A baseball clinic is being held on Grandin, Mission, and Sturgeon (Sir Alexander Mackenzie School) playgrounds for 8, 9, and 10 year olds; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, July 19, 20, and 21 at 6:30 P.M. Interested children should register with the playground director.

Men's Fastball Team

Anyone interested in playing on a Men's Fastball Team please contact the Parks and Recreation Department by phoning 599-6601.

Craft Guild

A Penny Auction will be held at the Community Hall, Tuesday, August 3, at 7:30 P.M. Among many other items, watch for handmade pots and jewelry.

Schedule for July 26-30

Circus Week is scheduled for the 26 to 30 of July. A pet show will be held on Wednesday, July 28 on all 5 playgrounds. The big event of the week will be a Penny Carnival on Friday, July 30. If you have never attended one, here is your big chance. All booths will be built and run by the children. Everyone is welcome. Watch for more information about this big event in next week's Gazette.

Camping Clubs

Boys and Girls - 12 to 15 years
A camping and nature study club is to be organized for the benefit of those who enjoy bike and foot hikes, cookouts

continued on page 7

ST. ALBERT HERCULES "H" NEWSPAPER BINGO

NUMBERS CALLED

TO DATE

BINGO

Game... H 2

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|
| 8 | 21 | ● | 49 | 62 |
| 2 | 28 | ● | 48 | 65 |
| 12 | 17 | ● | 56 | 68 |
| 6 | 22 | ● | 47 | 64 |
| 10 | 26 | ● | 50 | 70 |
| 7 | 23 | ● | 59 | 67 |
| 9 | 24 | ● | 54 | 71 |
| | 27 | ● | 57 | 66 |
| | | ● | | 69 |
| | | ● | | |
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UNITED CHURCH

St. Albert United Church News

On July 18, the combined service of St. Albert United and Presbyterian Churches was conducted by Mr. Dale Irving. Mrs. B. Paget was again guest organist. Mr. Irving preached the first of a series of sermons on the 8th Century Prophets. Last Sunday, the sermon was on the message of the Prophet, Amos. Next Sunday will be on the message of Hosea.

A vote of congratulations and thanks is extended on behalf of the congregation to everyone who helped to make "Vacation Church School '65" a real success. Over 75 children were registered for the School, and a very exciting and valuable week was enjoyed by all. A special thank you to Mrs. Elinor Barth who directed the School and was instrumental in the excellent planning, and co-ordination of all the departments. On Wednesday, July 21, at 7:00 P.M. a work party for the purpose of cleaning up the United Church yard is being organized. If you are free at this time, please plan to help. For further information, please call Mr. Bill Hite at 599-6131.

On Tuesday, July 27, at 7:30 P.M., the Official Board will meet with the new minister, Rev. Len Musto in the Church. This is a very important meeting, and all the Board members are urged to attend.

Summer Office Hours: Next week, July 26 to 31, Mr. Irving will be at a Junior Boys' Camp at Long Island Lake Camp. If there are any messages please call 599-6261 or 599-7305.

Family Camp: 'TRIPLE M' is sponsoring a Family Camp at Long Island Lake Campsite from August 6 to 16 (or any part thereof convenient to the family). Cost is \$1.00 per day per camper. For information and/or application, please call Mr. or Mrs. Ben Smith at 599-6042.



Northgate Motel and Camp Grounds

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From the Recreation Director continued from page 6

and overnight hikes. Meetings will be held twice a week, Tuesday and Friday. Instruction will be given in hiking, tenting, axmanship, fire building, orienteering, nature study, and nature craft.

Plans for Classes

Creative Needlecraft-Girls 8-up
Outdoor Sketching and Painting Teens and Adults

Batik - Teens and Adults

Basketry-using natural weeds-Adults

Photography - Teens and Adults

Ceramics - 6 to 12

Pottery (Raku) - a small experimental class in this fascinating craft will be held during the month of August.

Firearms - Father and Son

Archery - Father and Son

Fly Casting - Father and Son

A Teen Rally will be held in the Clubhouse, 1A Grenfell Avenue, Wednesday July 28th at 8:30 P.M. All Teens Welcome.

ELECTION RESULTS

TOWN ELECTION - JULY 7, 1965

Individual Results of the Candidates in the Different Districts - in Percentage

| | Gordon | | | | Bob | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | <u>Fowler</u> | <u>Parkes</u> | <u>Wheatley</u> | <u>Backer</u> | <u>Donais</u> | <u>Parkes</u> | <u>Sinclair</u> | <u>Willis</u> | <u>Hughes</u> | <u>Gilley</u> | <u>Mathews</u> |
| <u>Mission</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Park</u> | 90 | 9.6 | 34.2 | 30 | 68 | 80 | 77 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 9.9 |
| <u>Downtown</u> | 81 | 19.0 | 96.0 | 39 | 76.2 | 69.8 | 68.3 | 17.4 | 13.5 | 11.0 | 9.5 |
| <u>Braeside</u> | 58.7 | 41.3 | 75.2 | 60 | 51.9 | 53.4 | 51.1 | 36.9 | 30.0 | 33.0 | 9.9 |
| <u>Sturgeon</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Heights</u> | 66.0 | 34.0 | 76.4 | 64 | 52.7 | 57.0 | 47.5 | 35.5 | 28.4 | 29.0 | 11.8 |
| <u>Grandin</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Park</u> | 57.2 | 42.8 | 73.0 | 71.1 | 46.4 | 46.6 | 33.6 | 33.6 | 39.0 | 35.4 | 15.0 |

"Klondike Dance"

Friday July 23rd.

Club MocomboDANCING - ENTERTAINMENT
MIDNIGHT SMORGASBORD*sponsored by St. Albert Liberal Club
Klondike Dress Optional***HERCULES****Mites**

Hotshots - Hornets 5 - 4

Pete Upright (Hornets) 1-0: Dennis
Sanche (Hotshots) 1-1: Donn Davies
(Hornets) 2-1: Stuart MacKinnon (Hot-
shots) 2-2: Don Davies 3-2: Stuart Mac
Kinnon 3-3: Don Davies 4-3: Stuart
MacKinnon 4-4: Gary Ferguson (Hotshots)
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Party LineHas anyone come up with any new acti-
vities for keeping children busy during
the day and evening?

Between the ever constant demand for cool drinks and frequent lunches, there are terribly long lapses of time no one knows what to do with. That is what is supposed to be a time of relaxation. We'll just have to get used to it in small doses! Given a little time to practice, I suppose we'll eventually get used to it.

Hasn't the weather in Sunny Alberta made life a little easier to take - though? Now you'll really have to take CHED's advice to - "Roll over".

Speaking to Mrs. F.A. Morris this week, she gave us their favorite recipe. Just passing it on to you makes one hungry!

Chicken Creole

Sprinkle chicken pieces with a $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. crushed thyme and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. crushed marjoram, stand for 1 hr. then roll in flour. Fry 'til brown in butter and transfer to baking tin. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. crushed rosemary and 1 tbsp. of minced parsley. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup hot water in frying pan and stir and strain over chicken. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Serve with corn fritters.

Won't you join the movement?

Whether everyone approves or not, can afford it or not, we're reasonably sure that Klondike dress is here to stay as a distinct favorite dress-up theme. So don't pack your duds too far down in your trunk. Long range plans for next year are already in the making, and definite dates for entertainment along these lines are already tacked up on several calendars. All the costumes we saw were definitely attractive. Next year possibly those who do not go "Klondike" will be the exception rather than the rule. From where we stand it seems that it suits all ages and figures, and those wearing the costumes seemed happy with it.

Club News

The St. Albert Crafts Guild are holding a Penny Auction at the Community Hall Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:30 P.M., outdoors - weather permitting. Mrs. Lois Hale will be guest auctioneer. A variety of objects will be on display including baby needs, pottery models made during the year, Jewellery, china, electrical equipment, etc. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Funds realized from this auction are needed to buy equipment and improving the present accommodation. A high standard of work

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is set by this group, some of their work being accepted at the Alberta Craft in Calgary. Samples of objects created by both adults and children representing St. Albert had been sent in. For those of you who are still in town, this will be a very interesting way to spend an evening! Come and bring a friend or neighbor.

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Sunday 7:15 am - 8:30 am French
10 am - 11:30 am - 8 pm

Confession Saturday
Chapel: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Church: 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

St. Albert United Church
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Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.
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St. Albert Baptist Church
The St. Albert Baptist Church wishes to inform all its members and friends that for the month of July only, we will meet with the First Baptist Church, Edmonton.
Sunday morning services will resume in the Sir Alexander MacKenzie School the first Sunday in August.

Pentecostal, St. Albert
Rev. H.R. Onishenko - Ph. 599-6506
Sir George Simpson School
Sunday School 10 am.
Morning Worship.....11.15 am.

Anglican Church (St. Matthew's)
Rev. C.B. Doshins Ph. 599 - 8373
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Presbyterian Church
Combined services with the United Church during the summer. See above.

Lutheran Church
Rev. E. Klaszus Phone 599-8640
(Paul Kane High School)
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday School for Kindergarten and all grades will begin September 5th.

St. Albert Gazette



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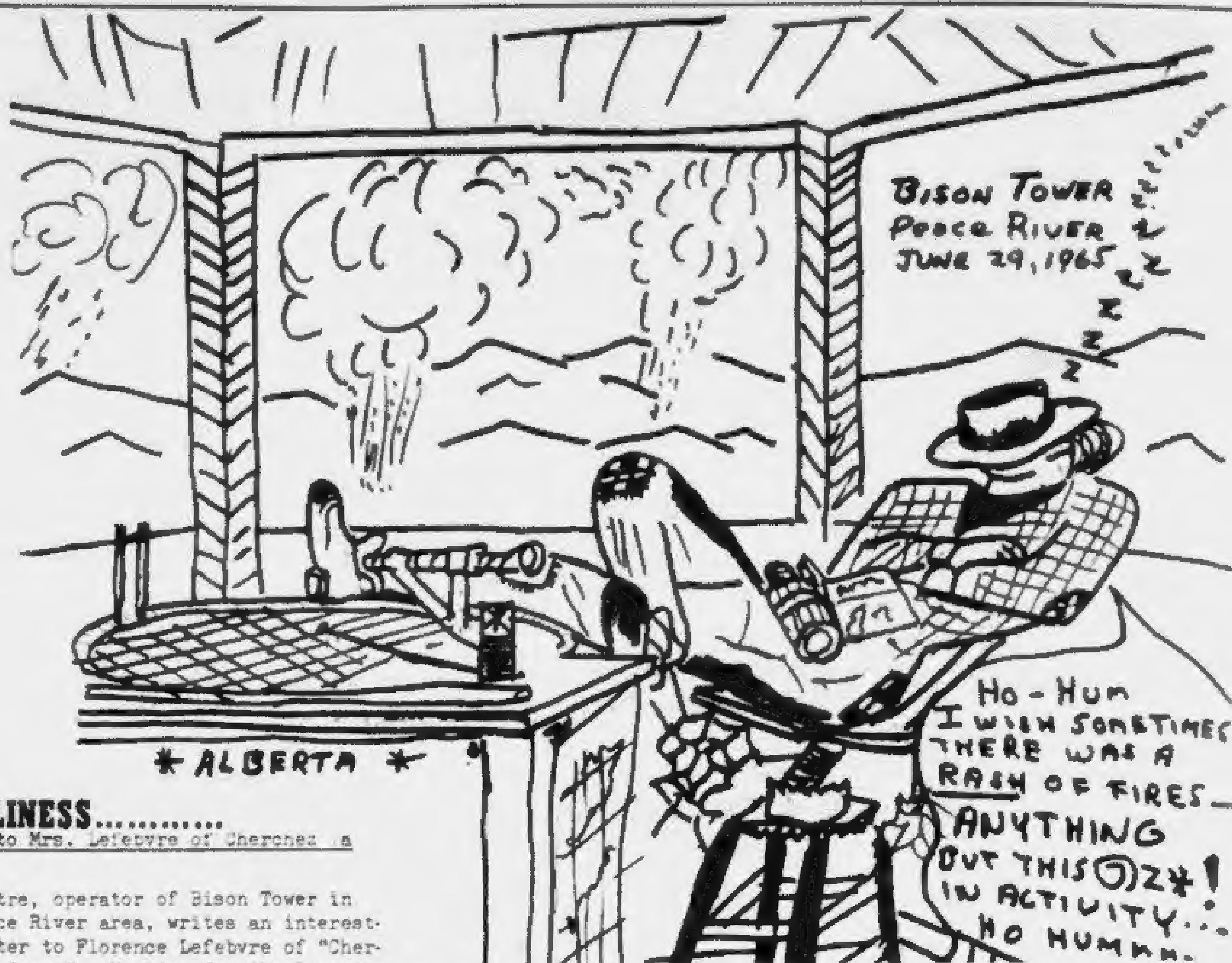
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LONELINESS.....

Letter to Mrs. Lefebvre of Cherchez la Femme

A.J. Pitre, operator of Bison Tower in the Peace River area, writes an interesting letter to Florence Lefebvre of "Cherchez-la-femme". Working for the Department of Lands and Forests, he is in his second year. He is there from April until the winter months. Radio is his only communication. Groceries and mail are brought in by helicopter once a month, the highlight of his existence.

Dear Tax-payers,

First of all, I want to thank you for keeping me in the style to which I have become accustomed. As you can see, I try in every way to serve you to the best of my abilities. With me, it is duty, duty, first and always. To get back into the world of realities, this month has been good to me. It did not drag and produced somewhat. I won't say what it produced. I don't want you people getting the impression that I am stupid or something. One of the highlights of the month was the voyage of Gemini IV. The radio I got myself this spring is a short-wave and standard broadcast deal and so I was able to listen in on the broadcasts made by the voice of America from Washington on the 19 metre-band. Being high up on a hill and having a rather good, high aerial (I shimmied up a tree to anchor one end and tied the other end to my tower... signals were very good. Not having a globe, I made myself a circular map with the centre the North Pole and

this helped me visualise the circuits and the landfalls they were making as they were announced by the various reporters, in the course of the revolutions. Washington was giving a lot of detail since they were on 24 hours a day during the time the space-craft was aloft. In this way, I was able to pick up a lot of technical data and all this helped to make it easier to visualize the whole show. I certainly envy you people being able to see some of this on your television screens. (I would appreciate any articles and pictures about any stage of the Gemini IV effort. One of the things that thrilled me most of all, I think was when Edward White was walking outside his space-craft, his laugh came through to me quite clear and I realized that this was not a tape, this was the real thing. I was hearing him laugh at the time he laughed while he walked and floated across the States with nothing about him but a special suit of clothes and that one hundred and sixty mile above the earth. And the part where Jim McDivitt says "Okay, come on in now, don't tire yourself out." Having been a pilot, I can appreciate their enthusiasm perhaps more than you people. Edward stayed out there nearly twice as long as he was supposed to and if I had been him, I would have been tempted to stay out even longer. What

a weekend!

It was a very dry spring for me here. For nearly two months, I had nothing but a few showers that barely settled the dust. I had to carry all my water for my garden from down below the hill which makes for good leg muscles and cherished vegetables. I begrudge every pea that my robin takes away from me. For weeks I had had my rain barrel ready. By ready I mean empty, of course and cleaned out, ready to go. For weeks I had been scanning the skies for signs of rain clouds. One day, I saw signs of a front building up a threatening sky and later, I was outside in the stuff making like you see these people down in Oklahoma and Texas do only I did not get down on my knees. Having to do my own laundry, I am chary about deals that get my trousers dirty. A few hours later, I decided to check the amount of water in the rain gauge. Nearly a quarter inch rain. That should give a half a barrel and I went over to make sure. I lifted the top of the 500 gallon water barrel. It was empty. I walked away and came back and did a second take. Empty. The dawn finally broke and I checked the valve down at the bottom and sure enough, it was open! It is not enough to have rain, you must be in

continued on next page

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Loneliness.....

a position to retain it if you are not connected with the water mains. It looks as if I am going to have to fall down the ladder or something, there is so little to write about. The joint isn't exactly jumping out here! I lost my dog, or pup, I should say. I saved a eight-week old pup from what-ever happens to pups that are not claimed at the S.P.C.A. and brought him out here. Everything went fine until a month later, having shot a bear, and the pup having filled up on it, took sick with some sort of nervous disease and I had to shoot it. This country is like Texas, it's hell on horses and worse, I mean on dogs. If I lose another one next year, people are going to suspect that I use them for stew meat. The moral of that story is: if you come

out here - don't eat bear meat! I have had no fires as yet, although I have sent in a smoke. It was on the shore of the lake some ten miles N.E. of me here. A plane was dispatched and it was reported that some Indians were camped there. I use my 7-power glasses a lot. I pretend that there is a boy who has a grudge against me because I stole his best girl and that to get even with me, he camps out there in the big sticks and he thinks I won't be up in the tower to spot them. Someday somebody is going to ring me up and tell me that there is a fire right under my nose and I am going to feel awful bad when I am going to be hauled up on the carpet to do some explaining but at least, it won't happen without my having given it a fair go. I am sending out my second manuscript this month end. I will soon be getting

my reject slip for that first one. I figure that if I send out something every month, sooner or later something is going to get accepted. I COULD live to be one hundred and thirty! The odds are against me but it could happen. That is one of the reasons I like this book that I am writing. You write away on it an instead of getting a brutal no every month, you get one every second year.

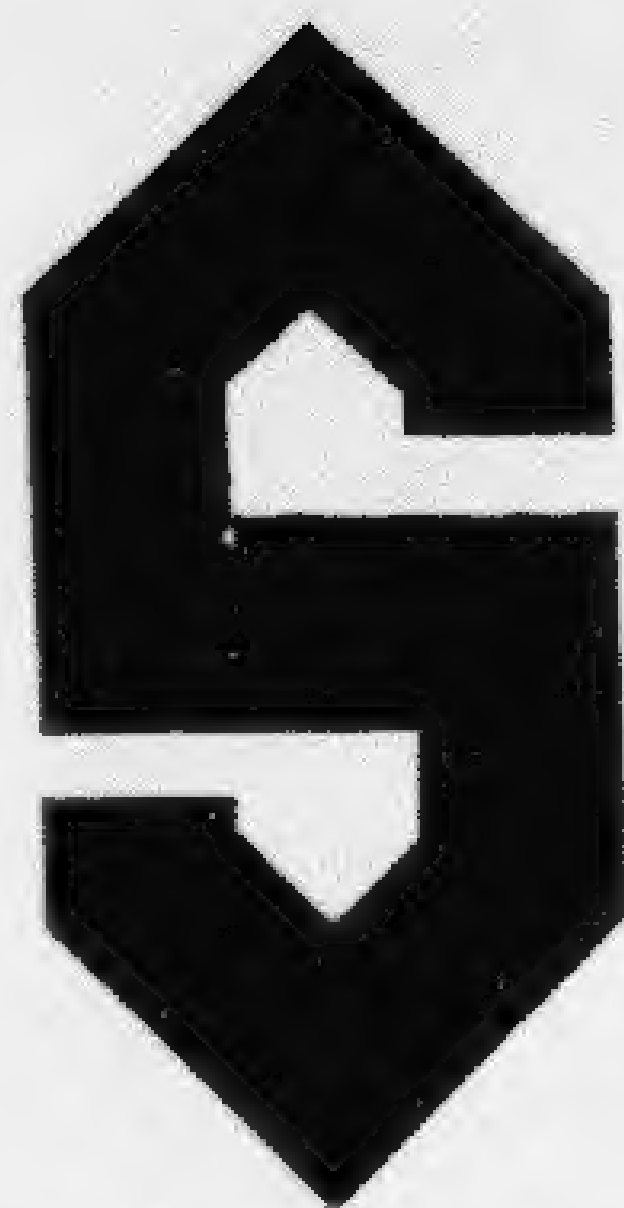
I have been eating radishes and lettuce from my garden the past two or three weeks. I ate peas the first week in June, but these were transplanted. I did not do too well with my transplants but next year I will as I have learned a lot this year. I am slowly acquiring a green thumb. I plan to build a hot-frame down the hill where the ground slopes to the South. I will cover it with polythene, and it should be the clear cat's pyjamas. With this terrific growing period in June, you can just about see things grow. I must transplant to avoid early frost and I am away to the races. I transplanted a vegetable marrow which bloomed the first week in June but it is not very satisfactory probably due to the lack of bees needed for pollen carriers - still it may work out.

Today is the last day of June and tomorrow if everything goes according to plans, I should be shaking hands with the pilot of the whirly-bird and the mailman. I hope you people have done your duty by me and sent me a few lines, anything at all. I will even welcome criticism and abuse (that is provided there is not a shortage of postage that I have to take care of!) The small fruits situation is fairly good this year, so far anyway. I have very interesting results with transplanting wild strawberries. They look very much like the tame variety as far as the bush is concerned. I still do not know what effect the transplanting will have on the actual fruit itself as I transplanted them last fall. One thing I do know is that the number of blooms and potential fruit is unbelievable! So much that, for fear that the plant could not handle them all, I had to prune them as I do my tomatoes. I wonder if the world can use two Burbanks in the same century?

Thursday, 10 A.M.

Well, the whirly-bird was due on Saturday, BUT, it is on the way NOW. When that day comes - you don't mess around! "On ramasse ses petits". As the limeys used to say - "That tears it!" Bye for now - 'Til next month. God bless you all.

Adrien.



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